

PRESS RELEASE



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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1980 MAY SHOW OPENS APRIL 16

The Cleveland Museum of Art's 61st annual May Show, a juried exhibition of works by artists and craftsmen of Ohio's Western Reserve, opens at the Museum on April 16, remaining on view through May 18, 1980.

On exhibit in the 1980 May Show are 229 works by 193 artists; they were selected from 2,500 entries submitted by 1,384 artists. Six artists won special awards; works by twenty-eight others were cited for special mention by show jurors.

The \$1000 award in painting went to Steven Cushner for The Little Suburb. In this lively work, composed of pyramidal shapes of thickly applied, vibrant colors placed in a field of greens and blues, the artist explores--abstractly--color, texture, and space, while retaining some suggestion of representationalism. Cushner, a native of Cleveland, is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and is currently completing work toward a master of fine arts degree at the University of Maryland. His work has been shown in several local exhibitions, including the 1979 May Show.

Scott Senseny, a recent graduate of The Cleveland Institute of Art, received the \$1000 award for sculpture for a massive steel sculpture entitled Trough. The interestingly composed work consists of two rectangular plates in a V-shape supported by a base made of intersecting and bolted steel angle, channel, and I-beams. Senseny has exhibited in Cleveland Institute of Art student shows as well as last year's May Show.

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Recipient of the \$1000 award for crafts is Nina Vivian Huryn, a graduate of The Cleveland Institute of Art whose work has been seen in three previous May Shows. Her prize-winning entry, entitled Fumigation of Coney Island, incorporates a variety of techniques and materials, primarily leather and fabric. The work was cited by jurors for its imagination, complexity, and technical excellence. Huryn has exhibited locally and in New York. In the 1977 May Show she received a special mention for crafts.

For the fourth consecutive year, the \$1000 award in graphics was split between two artists. Former Cleveland Willard Traub, now a free-lance photographer in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was awarded \$500 for two carefully composed and masterfully printed color photographs, one of a building facade (Homage to Edward Hopper), the other, the interior of a house (Room and Photograph). Traub has exhibited on the East Coast and in this area, receiving a special mention for photography in the 1979 May Show. Cleveland artist Mike Schaefer received \$500 for a screenprint and monotype entitled Atmospheric Disturbance (Cremation Process), an imaginative composition comprised of four individual panels, each suggesting atmosphere and landscape. This is the first year Schaefer has exhibited in the May Show.

This year the Horace E. Potter Memorial Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship went to Nancy Crow and her collaborator Velma Brill for a strikingly designed and beautifully executed quilt. Born in Loudonville, Ohio, Crow received her master of fine arts degree from Ohio State University; she now works in Baltimore, Ohio. Her quilts have been displayed in numerous Ohio exhibitions, receiving special mentions in the 1977 and 1979 May Shows.

Thirty-three other works, submitted by twenty-eight artists, were cited for special mention. In painting, six special mentions went to works by Eve Ingalls,

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Jack Fredrick Myers, Edwin Mieczkowski (for two entries), Patricia Zinsmeister-Parker, and Mark Sullivan. In sculpture, six special mentions were given for works by Mary Jo Bole (two entries), Richard Colburn, Eric Lintala (two entries), and Christopher Meyer. There were eight special mentions in graphics for works by Susan Fiori, David Haberman, Craig Lucas, Christopher Pekoc, Jim Soppelsa (both entries) and Terry Paul Speer (both entries). Six artists received special mentions in photography: Warren Hagel Crain, Garie W. Crawford, Frank C. Frate, Nicholas Hlobeczy, Dolores Kaufman, and David Wooldridge. In crafts, seven works--by Sandra Amitay, Maureen Kelman, Paul Miklowski, George Roby, Simone Samuels, Jack W. Thomas, and Roberta Williamson--were cited.

Works in the 1980 May Show were selected by members of the Museum's professional staff and two outside jurors. Robert T. Buck, Jr., director of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, served on the jury for painting, sculpture, graphics, and photography. Participating in the judging of crafts was Mildred Constantine, a consultant in art, architecture, and design, formerly curator in the department of architecture and design at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

As Tom E. Hinson, associate curator of modern art at the Cleveland Museum and 1980 May Show coordinator, points out, a noticeable feature of the 1980 May Show is the increased number of photographs on display. This category is now second only to painting in the number of entries received and accepted for the May Show. Especially noteworthy are the color photographs. Hinson also calls attention to a growing interest in the decorative qualities of handmade paper and the increasing use of paper by artists as an important visual element in their work. In addition, visitors to the Show should observe a greater interest on the part of artists in creating works made up of several units, particularly in painting, sculpture, and graphics.

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The May Show can be viewed everyday but Monday. The May Show galleries will be open Friday evenings until 10 p.m. during the length of the exhibition. All galleries in the Museum are open on Wednesday evenings until 10 p.m.

Gallery talks on the May Show will be given on 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, and Sunday, April 20.

To enter the May Show, artists must have been born, live, or employed in the thirteen-county Western Reserve area of Northeast Ohio.

The 1980 May Show is assisted by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

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For addition information or photographs, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.